

**ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE  
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**Date: 27 March 2009**

**Title : Development Plan Scheme 2009/10**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) for the first statutory development plan scheme.

**2 Background**

2.1 Under Section 20B of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 the SDPA are required to prepare a development plan scheme at least annually. The development plan scheme needs to set out the programme for preparing and reviewing the strategic development plan and what is likely to be involved at each stage.

2.2 The first development plan scheme must be produced and submitted to Scottish Ministers by 31 March 2009 under paragraph 13 of Scottish Planning Policy (October 2008).

2.3 Although two development plan schemes were published in relation to the preparation of the structure plan, these were non-statutory in nature and were prepared in advance of the new Regulations and Circular. However, they were designed to show commitment to the principles and objectives of the new development plan system and served a useful purpose.

**3 Content of a Development Plan Scheme**

3.1 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Regulation 24 of the Town and Country Development (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 states that development plan scheme content must include:

- Proposed timetabling (including the proposed month of publication for the Main Issues Report, Proposed Strategic Development Plan and submission of the Proposed Plan to Ministers);
- Details of what is likely to be involved at each stage of plan preparation and review; and
- A participation statement highlighting when consultation is likely to take place, with whom, its likely form and the steps to be taken to involve the public at large during the different stages.

3.2 Due to the recent submission of a finalised structure plan to Scottish Ministers, the production of a strategic development plan will not begin in Aberdeen City and Shire until 2010/11. This will enable the important task of implementation

to be taken forward – by the Strategic Development Plan Team as well as the two councils (particularly in the form of their local development plans). As a consequence, the first development plan scheme (covering 2009/10) is indicative rather than prescriptive. A detailed project plan will be prepared over the next 12 months which will inform the first review of the scheme.

3.3 Appendix 1 contains a draft 'Development Plan Scheme 2009/10' setting out a basic structure and estimated dates for the preparation of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan. This development plan scheme will be reviewed in a year's time when more detailed information and timetable will be provided.

3.4 In addition to meeting the statutory requirements governing their content, this development plan scheme also includes:

- a diagram showing the strategic development plan area;
- an explanation of the current process and changes in legislation;
- details of the current development plans in the area;
- information about the website and how people can be kept informed; and
- commitments to making everything produced as accessible as possible, carrying out our functions in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and acting with the objective of contributing towards sustainable development.

#### **4. Next Steps**

4.1 The development plan scheme, once agreed, will be submitted to Scottish Ministers by 31 March 2009 in line with the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy.

4.2 In line with a commitment to environmental responsibility and resource efficiency, our preferred means of distribution will be through the SDPA website. However, there will be a limited circulation of hard copies. When the scheme has been graphic designed and printed it will be distributed as follows:

- Scottish Ministers (2 copies);
- All public libraries in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire;
- All Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire councillors;
- All Key Agencies (2 copies each);
- All Community Councils in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire; and
- On request from the Strategic Development Plan Team.

4.3 The refreshing of the contacts database (identified as an early action in the development plan scheme) will afford the opportunity to inform people of the publication of the scheme.

4.4 A new development plan scheme will need to be prepared at least annually, with the next scheme required by 31 March 2010.

## 5 Financial Implications

5.1 The costs associated with the publication and distribution of the development plan scheme are likely to be around £500.

## 6 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:

- a) agree the content of the Development Plan Scheme 2009/10 and its submission to Scottish Ministers by 31 March 2009; and
- b) agree the publication and circulation of the Development Plan Scheme as set out in paragraph 4.2 above.

David Jennings  
Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan Manager

Dr Margaret Bochel  
Head of Planning & Infrastructure  
Aberdeen City Council



Dr Christine Gore  
Director of Planning & Environmental Services  
Aberdeenshire Council



*Report prepared by: Laura Robertson, Senior Planner, SDPA*

**Appendix 1: Draft Aberdeen City and Shire  
Development Plan Scheme 2009/10**